GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:320
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2009
BUDDHIST TOURISM
Vardhan Shri Harsh

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the untapped potential and scope for developing Buddhist tourism, in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to promote and popularise Buddhist tourism;

(c) whether a number of States have sought Central assistance in this regard during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) if so, the details of the projects/schemes including the funds allocated and utilised during the above period for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.320 ANSWERED ON 24.07.2009 REGARDING BUDDHIST TOURISM.

(a) to (d): Development and promotion of tourist destinations is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.The Ministry of Tourism, however provides financial assistance for tourism projects on the basis of proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority. Details of projects sanctioned for all States/Union Territories during the last three years are at Annexure. This includes the following projects for development of Buddhist heritage sites:

1. Rs. 463.50 lakh for destination development of Sanchi.
2. Rs. 408.93 lakh for construction of Huen Tsang Gram, Nav Nalanda
3. Rs.388.97 lakh for development of Vaishali.
4. Rs. 134.87 lakh for development of Lauriya Nandan Garh, Areraj & Rampurwa as a tourist destination.
5. Rs.158.40 lakh for development of Sujata Kutir, Bodhgaya.
6. Rs. 268.27 lakh for development of Niranjana River front and Parikarma Path.
7. Rs. 156.50 lakh for development of Prag Bodhi Dungeshwari hill, Bodhgaya.
8. Rs. 786 lakh during 2006-07 and Rs. 1416.30 lakh in 2008-09 for development of Varanasi-Sarnath.

The Ministry of Tourism through its India Tourism Offices in the country and abroad promotes the culture and heritage of India including Buddhist heritage through the Incredible India campaign as well as through production and distribution of brochures, posters, leaflets, compact discs etc. and also the internet.